

AAC Device Instructional Plan

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### **Device Overview**

The NOVA Chat 10 is a speech generated device made by Saltillo Products. The NOVA chat 10 uses the Chat Software as its main communication program. The physical device itself is a durable yet sleek portable design, with a 10.1" display. NOVA chat 10 dimensions are 10.25" x 6.38" x 1.38", which makes it easy to hold. A stand and handle are also built into the design and strap attachments are available for hands-free transporting.

There is a variety of vocabulary configurations that provides options for each individual that uses the "Chat" systems. NOVA chat includes thousands of SymbolStix™ symbols, and PCS™ symbols that can be added. and weighs only 2.05 lbs. The capacitive touchscreen is accessible by finger touch or an included stylus. A rubberized protective shield protects the system while color shells give it an up-to-date style.

The NOVA voices include a child's voice, a teen's voice, as well as numerous American, British English, & Australian adult options. Acapela voices are also available as an option offering several "genuine" voices for children.

The device comes with Pre-Loaded Vocabulary including various page sets targeting individuals with different communication needs. Included in the NOVA Chat are:

WordPower	4 Basic
Basic Scan	Communication Journey: Aphasia
my Core	my QuickChat
Essence	MultiChat 15
Spelling	
VocabPC	

Nova Chat can be used by all ages including children, adolescents and adults who have difficulty communicating their needs and wants. This device is able to address various conditions including head injury, stroke, or situations that result in a temporary inability to speak.

The NOVA Chat is available through Saltillo Products. The starting price for this device is \$ 3,995.00. This device is covered by Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance.

### **User Characteristics & Needs**

Mr. Chris Rodgers is a 46-year-old male that suffered a Stroke 3 months ago. He is dependent for all self-care needs and currently has a tracheostomy that has to be suctioned for secretions. He is feed through a peg tube. He has aphasia but is oriented to his surroundings. He is able to use his left hand to point but has limited fine motor control and decreased finger force. He is able to answer question by blinking once for yes and twice for no or using communication board with single words that his wife made for him. He becomes very agitated at times when he is unable get what he wants across to his wife and others. He is in a hospital bed and will need to access the device from his bed. He has good family support. He lives with his wife and two young children. He needs to be able to voice his needs to his wife and communicate with his family and others. He also needs to be able to call for help when his wife is in the other room. He is able understand commands and responds appropriately to questions. He presents with no visual or hearing limitations. His wife will need to be able to setup device for him and easily remove it in cases of emergencies. He has tried the iPad with communication apps and was successful with being able to press the tabs. He has Medicaid as his primary insurance which will be his funding for the device.

The NOVA Chat was chosen for him because it is small and easily accessible. In the chance that funding for the device is denied, the software program that is used in this device is available in an App format that can be used on a tablet. Because Mr. Rodgers cognition is intact, he is able to understand comments and commands presented to him. This device is appropriate for him with the vocabulary and Word Power options.

### **Customized Training**

The training for Mr. Rodgers will be conducted at his home. I will provide training to first Mrs. Rodgers, then I will train him on the device. My goals for this training session are:

- 1. Mr. Rodgers will be able to use the device to communicate his needs to his wife and family.***
- 2. Mrs. Rodgers will be able to assist Mr. Rodgers if a problem occurs.***
- 3. Mr. Rodgers will be able to use this device to alert his wife when he has an emergency.***

Mrs. Rodgers will be provided a quick Reference Guide on the device. Because the NOVA Chat offers several different templates, Mr. Rodgers will have the options to choose which one works best for him.

The training for this device will include the following:

Total Training Time	1 Hour
Place of Training	Mr. Rodgers Home

Training Materials Needed	NOVA Chat Device Universal Adjustable Mount Device Instruction Manuel Charger
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Rodgers will be able to correctly use the device to voice his needs and wants.</li> <li>2. Mrs. Rodgers will have a good understanding on how the device works and how to set it up.</li> </ol>
Training Session Broke Down into Sections	
Introduction and proper care of device- 5 Minutes	<p>Instructions on will be provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to turn the device on and off</li> <li>- Correct way to charge the device.</li> <li>- How to clean the device</li> </ul>
How to access the communication templates- 10 minutes	<p>Mrs. Rodgers will be provided with instruction on how to access the template page. I would encourage her to try different pages until they find the page that will work best for him. We will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accessing the Adult Multi Chat Page</li> <li>-Accessing the Adult Quick Chat Page</li> </ul>

<p>How to modify a page-</p> <p>15 Minutes</p>	<p>Mrs. Rodgers will be provided with instruction on how to modify a page so it can be personalized to Mr. Rodgers needs. Instructions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ -How to take a picture and insert into page.</li> <li>✓ -How to change the names on the page</li> <li>✓ -How to create a new tab</li> <li>✓ -How to modify an existing tab</li> <li>✓ -How to access the alarm tab</li> </ul>
<p>Setup of the mount on Mr. Rodgers Bed.</p> <p>Practice with the Device to demonstrate how to properly use device.</p> <p>25 Minutes</p>	<p>Once Mrs. Rodgers has been trained on accessing the device, she will be instructed on how to setup the device so that her husband can access the device. Instruction's include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ She will be provided training on how to apply and remove mount for the bed.</li> <li>✓ She will be trained on how to make sure device is securely attached to the mount.</li> <li>✓ She will be trained on properly positioning the device so that her husband can access it.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Once device is securely attached to the bed with mount, Mr. Rodgers will be trained on how to access the device and maneuver through each page.</li> <li>✓ Mrs. Rodgers will be encouraged to assist him since she will be the main person providing care to him and assisting him with the device.</li> <li>✓ Assure that Mr. Rodgers feels comfortable with using the device. Allow him to use device to answer questions and make comments to his wife.</li> <li>✓ Assure that Mrs. Rodgers feels comfortable with setting up and using device with her husband.</li> </ul>
<p>Questions:</p> <p>5 Minutes</p>	<p>Identify any needs or concerns that Mrs. Rodgers might have.</p>

Information Sheet Provided:

<https://saltillo.com/downloads/nova-quick-reference-guide-final.pdf>

## Demonstration



Video.mp4

## Reflection

While working on this assignment I had the chance to work with a very motivated and dedicated family. I used the AAC Report Coach to assist me with choosing a device for Chris. Using this tool, I could go back and discuss use and background with his wife. The AAC Report Coach was easier for me to understand and fill out for Chris. I was able to break down most of the areas I needed to look at for his device for Chris. The report walked me through the areas that are most important when deciding on a device.

This project allowed me to start from the beginning to the end to and look at Chris's needs in regards to communication. Having the opportunity to work with him and his wife reinforced just how important it is that everyone has a voice. Once I provided the training with Chris and his wife, he became very excited to use the device. When the training session was over, he would continue to hit the Thank You tab over and over. He would then shake his left leg rapidly. His wife said that when he did this he was happy. I felt so privileged to assist them with trialing a device.

## Community Impact

I think there is such a need for educating the community about AAC whether it be low tech or high tech. Making sure that we meet the needs of those who lack communication skill is important to maintaining quality of life. I think that everyone has a voice and it should be heard. Making sure that all individuals have access to resources and programs is important. It does not

have to be a high-tech device but could simply be a picture board that allows some to have autonomy and dignity. Just giving them the option to make a choice for themselves is worth it. I believe that AAC impacts every aspect of life including work, home and school. Communication is in everything we do and giving a voice to those with disabilities is the key.